

Historical Highlights of the Educational Ministry.

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Historical Highlights *of* The Educational Ministry



A little learning is a dang'rous thing;
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring:
There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
And drinking largely sobers us again.—*Pope**

Western North Carolina Conference
Seventy-five Years 1890-1965

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METHODIST BUILDING, 828 WESLEY DRIVE, STATESVILLE, N. C.
COMPLETED AND OCCUPIED, JANUARY 1, 1960

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FOREWORD

The request for A History of Christian Education in the Local Churches of the W. N. C. Conference came from the Conference Historical Society. Since higher education and the Educational Ministry in our churches are intricately bound together, it is more interesting and more realistic to write about both together. This sketch, however, is primarily about Christian nurture in local church and conference programs. The request suggested that names be omitted. An account of developments without at least a few names seems unreal. Just as names make news and as people start movements, names and movements make history. Dates are incidental, but any story without characters is incomplete and unreal.

Little effort has been made to use footnotes. The deadline given did not permit time for research. Any historical value will be found primarily in the record of my experience in directing the work for more than thirty years and from the contribution of people associated with me (ministers, professional teachers, employed staff, many volunteer lay persons and from a home where Christian education was a family affair) in creating an effective program of Christian education in the W. N. C. Conference. In a very real sense this paper is only a sketch of achievements. Introductory background material is included for personal reason and for a more complete picture. Certain facts secured from letters and by conversation with friends are also presented. The most important factor, however, is the influence of dedicated teachers whose intangible contributions are vital in the lives of their pupils.

Further information may be found in *Minutes* of board meetings, in occasional reports made by members of the employed staff, and in *Conference Journals* at the Methodist Center in Statesville. Any value in these documents is the result of the efficient secretarial work of Mrs. J. E. McSwain, Ruth Bowman, now Mrs. Olin Hardwick, Mrs. John F. Kirk, Mrs. Clara Ross Gilpin, Mrs. Lucy Norton, Mrs. R. R. Richardson, Mrs. Gerald Smith, and Miss Rebecca Holcombe.

CARL H. KING, *Executive Secretary*
December 10, 1965

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN METHODISM

General Background Information

Christian nurture has been in the bloodstream of Methodism from its beginning. John Wesley was among the first ministers favorably impressed by the Sunday School Movement started in England by Robert Raikes during the last quarter of the eighteenth century. Insofar as a new movement may have a specific date the year was 1780. On one occasion Wesley said to his ministers, "Where there are as many as six children, gather them together for instruction."

What is said above about Christian education in early English Methodism may well be repeated about the beginning and growth of Methodism in America and in the Western North Carolina Conference. A casual acquaintance with *Journals* from the first conference held in Concord, N. C. in 1890 indicates interest, activity and organization for the implementation of Christian nurture as an integral part of a new conference beginning its work in the western part of the state. Just as Methodism began and grew in the making of a great nation in a new world so did education find its place and make its contribution in both church and state. National conventions played an important part in the Sunday School Movement on the American scene. The International Lesson Committee was also an important factor through the years. The International Sunday School Association reached its peak in growth and in service between 1872 and 1910. The Western North Carolina Conference was organized in the middle of this period. The International Council of Religious Education then came on the scene and expanded the program of Christian Education. *Religious Education* and *The International Journal of Religious Education* have been important publications in guiding growth of the movement since the turn of the century. In 1950 The International Council merged with The National Council of Churches which now carries wider responsibilities in Christian education for Protestantism and to a certain degree for Inter-Faith Groups on a national and international scale. The three branches of Methodism that united in 1939 were members of the above mentioned organizations. They contributed significantly to the growth of the Religious Education Movement which is now an integral part of the National Council of Churches. The three uniting branches of Methodism and The Methodist Church benefited greatly across the years by these relationships.

THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

Land of Beautiful Hills and Fertile Valleys

"This Conference, set off to itself a year ago last May, embraces a fine section of North Carolina. Its boundaries commence at the eastern limit of Rockingham county, and run south with the eastern boundaries of Guilford and Randolph Counties to the southern

boundary of Randolph county; thence west on the southern lines of Randolph and Davidson counties to the Yadkin River; thence with the Yadkin and Pee Dee Rivers to the South Carolina state line. All the territory west of these boundaries included in the state line of North Carolina belongs to the Western North Carolina Conference. It covers a salubrious, beautiful and productive scope of country, occupied by a thrifty population, mostly of the Anglo-Saxon race. It contains broad acres of fertile land on which the great staples of cotton, corn, wheat, tobacco, and fruits are abundantly grown. Other classes of its population are engaged in the profitable business of merchandising, mining, manufacturing, banking, and various trades. Within its borders are engineers, architects, lawyers, physicians, authors, editors, school teachers, et al., belonging to the Methodist Church. The Conference is well furnished with school equipment and railroad facilities.

This new Conference, manned with a well qualified ministry, steps off on its future career with a bold front and an aggressive spirit, starting with about 130 pastoral charges, nearly 60,000 communicants, 40,943 Sunday school pupils, and church property estimated at \$600,000. It raised last year for benevolent purposes something over \$21,000. "It is destined," said Bishop Galloway, "to be one of the leading Conferences of Methodism." By H. T. HUDSON, P. V., Journal for 1891.

IN THE BEGINNING: WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

Concord, N. C., November 26, 1890

Bishop John C. Keener, Presiding

*Christian Higher Education and Educational Enterprises
in the Church*

The Journal for 1890 lists a Board of Education (Higher Education) with familiar ministerial membership as follows: L. W. Crawford, J. C. Rowe, T. F. Marr, H. W. Bays and others. Among the lay members were J. M. Odell, R. R. Crawford, W. M. Robbins and W. R. Jordan. The report of this board to the conference (p. 37, 1890 Journal) says "the educational interest of the church is vital to its future growth and final triumph." We now have four institutions of learning owned and controlled by the church and conference, viz: Trinity College, Davenport Female College, Weaverville Male and Female College and Hayesville College." Greensboro College soon became an integral part of the conference program of higher education. This conference also took action to cancel proceedings to move Trinity College to Raleigh in order that negotiations with Messrs. Carr and Duke might continue plans for moving the college to Durham which took place in 1892. The board reviewed the work of the four colleges mentioned and also commended Greensboro College and Asheville Female College as privately-owned schools within the bounds of the conference.

The Sunday School Board was designated in 1890. A few names among the board members follow: C. H. Ireland, A. W. Ellis, J. C. Curtis, lay; and R. S. Abernethy, J. C. Hartsell and J. C. Troy, clerical. Their report to the conference in 1891 (pp. 41-42) says, "we have sufficient machinery already unused, so that we find it unnecessary to provide more . . . but emphasize more diligent use of what we have . . . there are hundreds of schools needed, thousands of children hungering, and scores of communities suffering for which we are anxious and willing to give. That there is fault somewhere cannot be doubted. We believe it could be remedied if the brethren of the ministry would give more diligent heed to the ever important subject of Sunday schools."

A Standing Committee on Epworth Leagues is listed in the *Journal* of 1898 with G. L. Hackney, Chairman and C. F. Sherrill, Secretary. Names of members of this committee reveal leaders of youth in the conference at the turn of the century. They were E. L. Bain, W. H. Willis, G. T. Rowe, J. H. Brendall, W. L. Nicholson, C. M. Gentry, D. M. Litaker, W. L. Sherrill, J. A. B. Fry, D. M. McIver, Thomas Johnson, F. C. Boyles, W. F. Wood, A. N. Peacock, William Morris, J. L. Nelson, and W. N. Hendren.

Their report (p. 46, 1898 *Journal*) says, "we have 96 Epworth Leagues with a membership of 3,401. For the past three years we have held joint annual Epworth League and Sunday School conferences. These conferences were held in the summer, very largely attended, and were productive of good."

A casual review of early *Journals* clearly reveals that Christian education was securely embedded in the structure of the W. N. C. Conference from its first session held in 1890. Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal, South, and Methodist Protestants moved in to possess the land wherever needs emerged and where opportunities developed. Each group had its unique beginning and made its distinct contribution.

DEEPER ROOTS AND SIGNIFICANT PIONEERING

Higher Education: Use of College Facilities and Junaluska For In-Service-Leadership Education Enterprises

A history of our church colleges has been recorded by each institution. The purpose here is to sketch the rapid growth of Christian education in the churches; to acknowledge indebtedness for use of college facilities for summer conferences and other leadership education enterprises; and to mention the emergence of Lake Junaluska as a great assembly ground for church programs sponsored by agencies of the church.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Academies and church colleges struggled to meet needs in higher education. Pfeiffer College, Misenheimer; Bennett College, Greensboro; and Allen School for Girls, Asheville, are existing ex-

amples of a good beginning with wise management by the Methodist Episcopal Church. As youth work grew in the churches there was a need for a place to schedule summer conferences for instruction, inspiration and for a growing movement. Their first Epworth League Institute was held at Pfeiffer College in 1926. Among the ministers leading in this program were D. W. Donaldson, W. A. Parsons, C. M. White, C. O. Newell, A. B. Dennis, Wade Bustle, Vernon Morton, Y. D. Poole, and their wives who also assisted in many ways. The pastors' school and leadership school were held jointly for several years preceding Methodist Union in 1939. The college became the spearhead for Christian higher education and an educational center for agencies of church.

Similar conferences for ministers, young people and for women of the church have been held at Bennett College across the years. While being handicapped by ministering to widely scattered churches in several states, Bennett has met needs and ministered to the churches in a constructive way. Beginning with 1965 these enterprises are jointly planned and administered in an Upper Southeastern Regional Leadership School for all Methodists in the region. Dr. David D. Jones and Dr. Willa B. Player have given statesmanlike leadership for many years at Bennett College.

METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

The Methodist Protestant Church grew with a similar program of educational enterprises with the exception of youth work which was channeled through the Christian Endeavor organization. High Point College was opened in 1924 and immediately became a center for Christian higher education and also a place for leadership education for agencies of the Methodist Protestant Church. With a concentration of churches and a new college in Western Carolina their program of Christian education prospered under the guidance of people like P. E. Lindley, Lawrence Little, F. L. Gibbs, Mrs. Eugene Lamb, Jay Braxton, Luther Medlin, Aubert Smith, J. T. Morehead, J. E. Carroll and others. Their college became a center for higher education and also a place for educational conferences of the churches during the summer months.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

The M. E. Church, South, struggled with academies, secondary schools and colleges. Among those that made temporary and enduring contributions may be listed Rutherford College, Weaver College, Davenport College, Brevard College, Greensboro College and Trinity College (now Duke University). Some schools closed and others merged. There has been, however, a continuous stream of graduates from our church colleges across the years. They have provided leadership and have created an atmosphere for educational ideals in our churches.

Under the leadership of H. E. Spence, J. M. Ormond and others the N. C. Pastors' School at Trinity and later at Duke was a signifi-

cant annual event in the life of ministers. For many years leadership education courses were given, dealing with Christian education as well as with preaching and pastoral work. The pattern has changed but as now combined with the Gray Lectures still undergirds a finer ministry to a larger area of the church. W. A. Kale, McMurry Richey and Wilson Nesbit have carried responsibility for the Pastors' School and for the Supply Pastors' School in more recent years.

A Standing Committee on Epworth League made its first conference report in 1898. This committee soon grew into an Epworth League Board and developed a strong program among young people. A conference assembly was held at Connelly Springs Hotel in 1913. At a similar conference in Charlotte in 1919, Grace Bradley, now Mrs. J. S. Gibbs, became Field Secretary for Epworth League and continued in this work for five years. Others who filled this office were Margaret Brooks, W. A. Barber, and Gilreath G. Adams, Sr. Mrs. Barber and Mrs. Adams also served faithfully with their husbands. Among the ministers who gave guidance in the program were L. A. Falls, R. E. Atkinson, G. T. Bond, T. A. Groce, Frank Armstrong, J. O. Ervin, C. S. Kirkpatrick and a host of other men and women.

A Sunday School Board was active from the beginning of the conference in 1890. Dr. Charles W. Byrd, Asheville, served as chairman of the board for a number of years. He was instrumental in securing Mr. O. V. Woosley as Field Secretary, an office he filled with vigorous leadership from 1918 to 1929. Associated with him in Children's Work were Mrs. O. V. Woosley, Miss Virginia Jenkins and Miss Corinne Little. Miss Agnes Peacock, now Mrs. James McSwain, also served the program effectively as secretary and administrative assistant during the "Woosley Era," and later.

Paul F. Evans, Extension Secretary, made an enviable record with Cokesbury Training classes and with extension Sunday school work in rural churches. Lee F. Tuttle was a member of the staff for a short while at this time. It was during this period that the Men's Bible classes of the Conference erected the electrically lighted cross which occupies a focal point at Lake Junaluska. Epworth League conferences, Sunday School leadership training and other educational enterprises began to use Shackford Hall which was opened in 1923. With better and more adequate facilities, a period of growth and of larger service to the churches began. Even though Junaluska is a Jurisdictional enterprise the educational program of the W. N. C. Conference has profited greatly by having access to the facilities there.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

The dates of 1890, 1930, and 1939 represent significant mileposts in any history of the Conference. The first session was held at Concord in 1890. Boundary lines established then are essentially the same that we have today. Boards and agencies organized in the be-

ginning have rendered service and grown with the conference. In the area of Christian education, a Sunday School Board, an Epworth League Committee, and a Board of Higher Education were in the program and proceedings of the first conference. These agencies and their programs grew in power and influence until they became more competitive than cooperative. It became evident to a few church statesmen that certain structural changes were needed. The General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, meeting in Dallas, Texas, in 1930, made significant history when responsibilities of the three above mentioned agencies were placed under the direction of one Board of Education. This board had its counterpart in the local church, in the annual conference and later in the jurisdiction. These boards working from the general church to the local church were charged with responsibility for a united approach to a unified program of Christian education. While changes and adaptations have been made and continue to be made, basic procedures started in 1930 became the pattern for Christian education when three historic branches of Methodism united at Kansas City in 1939.

THE UNITING CONFERENCE OF 1939

And An Expanding Program of Christian Education

Each of the three uniting groups had valuable property, good foundations for Christian education in the churches, and colleges prepared to give more efficient leadership in both church and state. The economic depression brought problems and reverses for a decade between 1929 and 1939. Polio epidemics, one of the last and worst of which came in 1944, were also demoralizing to seasonal educational enterprises scheduled during the summer months. Discouraging decreases in membership and attendance were experienced. However, since 1944 both church and church school membership have grown annually. In 1944 church membership was recorded at 209,065 persons; by 1954 this number had grown to 246,648; in 1964 there were 268,595. In 1944 church school membership was 143,139; in 1954 this number had grown to 207,164; and in 1964 there were 227,535 involved in church school work.

At annual conference, June, 1965, there was an increase of 1,197 church members, making a total of 269,762 and a growth of 4,440 church school members making a total of 231,975—the largest membership in both church and church school in the history of the conference.

Since the merging of agencies into one board in 1930 and since the Uniting Conference in 1939, The Methodist Church has had exceptional growth in western North Carolina. Dr. John F. Kirk was elected Executive Secretary of the Board of Education in 1930 and served in that capacity for three years. Associated with him was W. A. Kale who succeeded Dr. Kirk for the year 1933-1934. Carl H. King was elected Executive Secretary in 1934. Jesse G. Wilkinson and Earl D. C. Brewer served as extension secretary and director of

rural church. Also associated with the Executive Secretary as Conference Directors of Children's Work were Miss Corinne Little, Miss Elizabeth Oliver, now Mrs. Robert Early, Mrs. W. R. Reed, and Miss Louise Robinson, who has been assisted by her secretaries, Mrs. Gilreath Adams, Jr. and Mrs. Ralph Dameron. The Executive Secretary and Mrs. John F. Kirk, M. Teague Hipps, Miss Nell Webb, now Mrs. Ralph Mohny, Miss Mary Ellen Harrill, now Mrs. John Bullard, Miss Marion Craig, and Paul H. Duckwall have directed youth work for various periods of time. George W. Rudisill directed adult work and assisted with the camping program for a quadrennium. Thomas S. Lee, Jr. became director of Junior High and Junior High Camping in 1960 and has been assisted by Mrs. Ann Harrell and Miss Nancy Spencer. These employed people along with a host of dedicated volunteer workers have guided the program since 1930, during which time Christian education in the W. N. C. Conference of The Methodist Church has made significant progress. Growth during the twenty-five-year period from 1939 to 1964 is a worthy achievement and a tribute to the ecumenical spirit which brought the three branches of Methodism together again.

The following persons have served as president of the Conference Board since 1930: W. W. Peele, O. V. Woosley, W. A. Stanbury, G. Ray Jordan, Claude H. Moser, W. A. Kale, Embree H. Blackard, Frank B. Jordan, P. L. Shore, Jr., and S. Herbert Hitch.

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

Leadership education has been a main-line activity in the conference for nearly fifty years. In the early twenties Cokesbury Leadership Schools were designed to serve rural and small churches in the country and in industrial communities. For twenty years these schools ministered annually to hundreds of churches and to thousands of church school officers and teachers. During the same period Standard Training Schools were designed for needs in larger churches. Many teachers had their first courses in Child Psychology, Methods and Materials, How to Teach and in Organization and Administration. In the early forties Cokesbury Schools and Standard Training Schools were partially merged and were known as First Series and Second Series in cooperation with the International Council of Religious Education in the area of teacher training. Christian Workers' Schools later became the over-all name for this program which is still offered in first and second series classes where needs of the churches indicate whether a three-day or a five-day school is more practical. Since the early fifties approximately ten thousand persons have been involved in these educational experiences annually. Few conferences, if any, have ever had better or more extensive opportunities for improving the quality of teaching in the churches. The Laboratory School is emerging with sound educational procedures as the next advance in this important program. Teachers for this area of service have been recruited from church colleges,

divinity school faculties, directors of Christian education, ministers and well-qualified lay teachers. This program has been an important factor in improving the quality of education in our churches and in keeping Methodist membership equal to and ahead of population growth percentage-wise in the conference.

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOLS

In 1900 R. H. Vaughn, Wisconsin, and in 1901 Robert G. Boville, New York City, began using summer vacation as an opportunity for additional time for the Christian education of children in their churches. These two projects were similar in principles but were different in patterns of procedure. From these experiences came what was later known as the Vacation Bible School Movement. Our conference, in keeping with guidance from our General Board and for other good reasons, has used the term Vacation Church School. This movement was started early in this century, but came on the scene significantly in this conference in the late twenties and early thirties. The newness of the movement and summer polio epidemics handicapped growth in our area for a decade or more. One report to annual conference in this period recorded approximately 27 schools with less than 500 pupils and teachers involved. Our conference program has grown steadily in the number of schools held, in extending the time from one week to two weeks, the number of pupils and teachers involved and in the use of better methods and materials. The Vacation School has become second only to the Sunday Church School as a factor in providing more time for teaching and for a better quality of Christian nurture in our churches. Since 1950 an average of about 50,000 children, early teen-agers, parents and teachers have been involved in planning and in administering from 500-700 or more vacation church schools each year. This movement has provided more time needed for teaching and has strengthened the Christian education of children more than any other program. Vacation school materials are now an integral part of *Christian Studies for Methodist Children*. With this development our leaders are speaking of the vacation school as a fifth quarter in the church school year. Much progress must be made to warrant this claim. The possibilities, however, are still unlimited.

Other significant developments which can be mentioned briefly are: Through-the-Week Nursery and Kindergarten Program, Camping for Elementary Boys and Girls, Missionary Education of Children, and Training for Leaders of exceptional children. In each of these activities the needs of children are being met and more time for teaching is a part of the ever-expanding program for the Christian nurture for this age group.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OUT-OF-DOORS

Junior High Camping

Junior High Camping began at Camp Dellwood, Maggie Valley, near Lake Junaluska, in 1936. Approximately 80 junior high boys and girls participated in the first camping program sponsored by this conference. This venture was initiated, guided and directed continuously each summer from 1936 through 1948 at Camp Dellwood and Camp Carlyle by the Executive Secretary and his wife, Mrs. Carl King. In 1940 this activity was moved to Camp Carlyle, Hendersonville, where facilities provided for 200 campers each season. The need for a conference camp developed. In the spring of 1949 the Conference Board of Education bought a private camp near Hendersonville for \$57,500. This project was incorporated when authorized. The property is held by a board of trustees for the Conference Board of Education which has sole responsibility for both the program and property. Camp Tekoa (Tekoa was chosen because of its Biblical connection with Amos of Tekoa) was selected as the name and the first sessions were held at this new location in 1949. Facilities have been improved and enlarged from year to year and the property is now valued at \$150,000. The program has grown and for the past ten years an average of 1,000 junior high boys and girls have had a camping experience at Tekoa each summer. During the same decade local churches, districts, and other groups have developed camping programs until several thousand teen-agers are participating in this out-of-doors program of Christian education each season. The most significant current development is in the growth of district camps. Nearly every district in this conference is in the process of acquiring and developing camp facilities and programs. Camping, now also referred to as Christian Education Out-of-Doors, has also been an important factor in providing more time for teaching and thereby enriching our conference program of Christian nurture for junior high boys and girls. Many people have been involved in and have contributed to our camping program. Mrs. Carl King, Miss Marion Craig, Mary Ellen Harrill, George Rudisill, Paul Duckwall, Margaret and Thomas S. Lee, Jr., along with the Executive Secretary, have interpreted the philosophy of camping, enlisted and counseled many volunteer workers and have improved the facilities at Tekoa. The Fred J. Stanback family in Salisbury built Laurel Lodge and thereby gave the program a significant boost with this contribution. John McClurd, architect, drew plans for all new building projects. Edwin Ford, also of Shelby, gave time, building materials and valuable service in other ways. Franklin and Louise Brown of Charlotte gave the first new cabin. Many people have contributed to improvement of the facilities. John Moore, Superintendent of Grounds, 1952-1961, and Mr. and Mrs. Verlon Poindexter, beginning in April 1961 have rendered effective service to the camp. Volunteer service given by dedicated counselors has been one of the major factors in the success of Camp Tekoa. Ministers, students, directors and other

persons have influenced junior high boys and girls to make decisions for Christian living and for full-time Christian service. With carefully-chosen students and caravaners from abroad and with young people such as Dave and Betty Swain serving in Japan, and Max and Mary Lowdermilk serving in Pakistan, Camp Tekoa has influenced many people who are serving the church at home and around the world. This youth ministry with early teen-agers and the teaching-learning experiences of counselors has been truly an experience in Christian education out-of-doors with an international flavor and a world outreach.

YOUTH WORKSHOPS AND APPALACHIAN TRAIL HIKE

Youth Conferences, Youth Assemblies and Youth Rallies are familiar terminologies associated with Epworth League, the Christian Endeavor Society, and for a decade or more with The Methodist Youth Fellowship. Growth in members, depth in perception of ideas and issues, and rapid social change have made their impact in recent years. The workshop method, small group discussion, work projects and national convocations are gradually replacing earlier terminology and former procedures. Our conference youth activities at Junaluska, district programs in thirteen districts of the conference, the annual youth council meeting, and quadrennial meetings are significant and meaningful in youth work today. Careful thought and group planning are necessary to stay close to the interests and needs of youth. Our leaders have kept alert to these needs and have initiated changes necessary for a vital program.

Our new feature with older youth is the Appalachian Trail Hike. When the summer assembly was no longer effective with this group, the new feature was tried and found to be effective. The spirit of adventure, the challenge of rugged trails, fellowship around the camp fire at night, along with the beauty and grandeur of the mountains have established this annual event as an important and integral part of the youth program. Paul Duckwall and Keith Tutterow have guided this project for many older youth and young adults.

The Methodist Youth Fund is the approved mission special for youth. An amount approaching a million dollars per year is given by the young people of Methodism. With continuous education concerning missions in the church the youth of this conference gave \$35,011.68 in 1964. The total for 1965 was \$35,673.92, an increase of \$662.24. This amount represents a wholesome annual growth over the past ten years and is second in Methodism for 1965. Miss Leona Morgan, now Mrs. Elwood Hayworth, and Mrs. J. E. Yountz have rendered effective service as treasurers of this fund and as secretaries.

The motto, statement of purpose, and emblem of the Methodist Youth Fellowship in use for twenty years was evaluated and found inadequate. A new covenant more in keeping with the needs of youth and more comprehensive in dealing with rapid social change was adopted in 1961. Regular study and frequent changes indicate

that our leadership is constantly striving to minister adequately to young people. Older youth and Young Adult work have been merged under the leadership of Paul Duckwall. This procedure in this conference seems to be more and more a trend in the entire church.

THE YOUTH CARAVAN

The Youth Caravan Movement began in the M. E. Church, South. Bishop Paul B. Kern and E. O. Harbin were primarily responsible for the idea. Paul Worley, now a prominent minister in the Holston Conference, directed the program which grew steadily for a number of years. In the middle forties this activity was merged with a larger international student exchange program. In the W. N. C. Conference an overseas caravan was organized to continue this good work among our young people. In 1955 fourteen young people, with the executive secretary and his wife as adult counselors, visited and worked in the Scandinavian Methodist churches of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark. This program has continued with representatives of Scandinavian Methodism coming to serve and to learn from participation in our camps, assemblies, workshops, and churches. More than a hundred young people from W. N. C. and from Scandinavia have been involved in this activity for a decade from 1955 to 1965. This project bids fair to continue to be an important factor in our youth program at home and in other countries. The following persons served as counselors for the Overseas Caravan between 1955 and 1965: Carl and Mary King, Marion Craig and the Walter Millers, Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Smith, Miriam and Bill Bumgarner, Mel and Hulda Harbin, and Robert and Thelma Stamey.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Family life education has grown across the years since the first National Family Life Conference held in Chicago, Illinois, 1950, and Cleveland in 1954. This national quadrennial occasion has been held in Chicago since 1958 and attended by approximately 100 carefully-chosen delegates from this conference every four years. The quadrennial meeting in Chicago in October 1962 decided to hold its next session in 1966. It also decided to plan a World Family Life Conference, London, England, in August 1966 in connection with the World Conference of Methodism. This movement has encouraged local churches, districts and annual conferences to provide better family life education programs. Another outgrowth is the Jurisdictional Family Life Conference held at Junaluska each summer.

THE DUKE FOUNDATION AND THE RURAL CHURCH

The Duke Foundation, established in 1924, has had a far-reaching influence in encouraging the construction of better facilities in rural churches and thereby making possible better and more effective activities in Christian education. This Foundation has also assigned divinity students to summer work in rural parishes, for

teachers in vacation schools, for leaders of youth in the churches and for counselors in the camping program. Faculty members from the Divinity School, the University and from Brevard, Greensboro, High Point, and Pfeiffer Colleges have given invaluable service to our program of Christian education and especially in leadership education throughout the conference. It is difficult, if not impossible, to evaluate properly the influence of these relationships in making Christian nurture more effective for our Methodist constituency across the years. It is in reality a process of "uniting knowledge and vital piety."

CONFERENCE SUPPORT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The College Sustaining Fund

It is common knowledge to all who served the church during the great economic depression that financial support for every agency or cause of the church was greatly diminished. From 1934 to 1949 contributions to higher education were nominal. The College Sustaining Fund was initiated in 1949 and has grown steadily each year. The original purpose of this fund was to increase salaries of teachers and thereby to undergird the need for quality education at this vital point. In 1949-1950 this fund amounted to \$75,461.61. In the fifteen-year period between 1949 and 1964 the amount grew to \$467,000 with an additional increase of \$30,000 in 1965, making \$497,000. A total of \$3,223,478.10 was given from 1958-1966. This annual contribution by the churches of the conferences bids fair to continue as a major source of financial assistance to our colleges and Duke Divinity School. Growth and total contributions for the nine-year period were:

1957-'58	\$ 260,393.90
1958-'59	291,765.04
1959-'60	309,137.70
1960-'61	312,498.98
1961-'62	328,799.82
1962-'63	383,363.47
1963-'64	373,519.19
1964-'65	467,000.00
1965-'66	497,000.00
Grand Total	\$3,223,478.10

These funds are made available, with no extra administrative expense, through regular channels of the church such as: The Board of Education, The World Service Commission, ministers who keep needs of our colleges before their people, and through the generosity of laymen who give their money systematically through their church budgets.

For the first time five per cent of the amount received by each college in 1964-65 was added to the endowment. This action in con-

nection with the College Sustaining Fund has a two-fold purpose: (1) It provides current operating funds to increase salaries for teachers and to improve the quality of education offered by the church college. (2) It provides for an annual nominal growth in endowment resources. This action was approved by the Board of Education, the World Service Commission, the colleges, and by the W. N. C. Conference. It is acceptable to the agencies concerned and to ministers and laymen in general as a good approach to churches for regular annual support of higher education and as a long-range plan for increasing endowment.

THE CAMPUS MINISTRY

To Students, Faculty, and College Community

In 1959 contributions for support of the campus ministry was \$30,000. This amount grew to \$60,000 by 1965. Total for the seven-year period was \$308,000. A national study of Wesley Foundation work will undoubtedly result in greater support for a more effective campus ministry. Significant progress has been made during the last fifteen years.

WESLEY FOUNDATION FACILITIES

The Building Fund

In 1959 contribution for support for the Wesley Foundation Building Fund was \$23,548.42. This amount was \$30,000 for 1965. Total for the seven-year period was \$194,936.10. This conference has made and will continue to carry its share of responsibility for these activities sponsored by the Inter-conference Commission. More adequate facilities have been provided at Boone, Cullowhee, UNC at Greensboro, East Carolina, Greenville; N. C. State University, Duke University, and UNC, Chapel Hill.

METHODIST STUDENT DAY OFFERING AND RACE RELATIONS CONTRIBUTION

The Student Day offering for 1965 was \$7,000, designated by the *Discipline* for the National Methodist Scholarship and Loan Fund. The Race Relation offering was \$10,000 and was sent to the treasurer of the General Board of Education, Nashville, where it was allocated to the support of Bennett College, Greensboro.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

Additional time for Christian teaching is a major item for discussion in undergraduate classes in religion, in parallel courses in most theological seminaries, and in all leadership education enterprises. This problem was sensationally portrayed in a national publication a few years ago. The need is recognized and efforts are being made, with some degree of success, to improve the situation. A few signs of progress mentioned in this record may be listed as follows: (1) Leadership education enterprises, (2) vacation church schools,

(3) through-the-week nursery-kindergarten schools, (4) camping with its vast program of Christian education out-of-doors, (5) summer conferences, workshops, work camp projects, national and international convocations and caravans, (6) better facilities for educational programs in the churches, and (7) increased support for higher education including more scholarship funds, a better campus ministry, and concern for strengthening our colleges with a larger race relations offering and with a growing College Sustaining Fund.

THE FIRST SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS

Between 1890 and 1965 is a span of seventy-five years. A casual review of records for this period reveals significant growth in every area of conference work. This look at the past is encouraging. Our opportunities are just as great now and our needs are even greater. Christian education will continue to contribute to the growth of Methodism. Any history of progress for the next seventy-five years will be determined to a large extent by the way in which the educational forces of both church and state accept the challenge to meet those greater needs effectively with quality education for all people.

THE NEXT SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS?

A More Inclusive Church!

Student work in the N. C. Conference, W. N. C. Conference, and in the Virginia-N. C. Conference has been on a cooperative basis in planning and in administration for a decade or more. Leadership training enterprises in the three conferences are beginning to function on the same basis. The following request points the way in this area of Christian education: "Where leadership education enterprises beyond the local church are scheduled on a subdistrict, district, conference or inter-conference basis, we request approval of the Conference Board of Education for joint planning and participation between members of our conference staff and persons holding similar positions in the Virginia-North Carolina Conference of the Central Jurisdiction. Our joint responsibilities will involve those churches within the bounds of the W. N. C. Conference and will be scheduled after consultation with the district superintendent and the pastor of the host church where the meeting will be held."

Approved by Conference Board of Education,
Statesville, N. C., March 11, 1965, and by the
Annual Conference, June, 1965.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CHURCH

. . . is that all persons be aware of and grow in their understanding of God, especially of His redeeming love as revealed in Jesus Christ, and that they respond in faith and love — to the end that they may know who they are and what their human situation

means, increasingly identify themselves as sons of God and members of the Christian community, live in the spirit of God in every relationship, fulfill their common discipleship in the world, and abide in the Christian hope.—*Design for Methodist Curriculum.*

With the above clearly-stated objective of the church and with a forward thrust in Christian education, the next seventy-five years will certainly be more challenging and, we trust, more rewarding as the ideas and plans for an Educational Ministry unfold.

A CHALLENGE TO A NEW DAY IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"The 1964 General Conference has summoned every church in Methodism to appraise its mission and ministry to the community and the world in the light of what Christ expects from those who call Him Savior and Lord. In faithfulness to this challenge, the Board of Education of The Methodist Church now calls every local congregation to prepare for A New Day In Christian Education.

"Make no mistake about it: this is a call to a purpose, not a program — to launch the church's teaching ministry forward. At the heart of it is awareness of the needs of persons living in often frustrating and bewildering circumstances that are part of a changing world. These persons are searching for the kind of perspective that can be found only in understanding the significance of God's love working in and through us."

In response to the above challenge, persons in the Local Church Section, in the Editorial Division and in the Curriculum Committee of the General Board of Education are preparing new curriculum materials to be ready for use in adult classes and in other study groups by September 1967 and 1969 and for a complete new curriculum for youth in 1968. Leadership Schools at Junaluska, Christians Workers' Schools, Regional Seminars, District Conferences and other occasions are being planned for (1) an interpretation of the forthcoming new literature and (2) a call for a minimum of one hundred hours per year of teaching-learning experiences in all churches. This challenge calls for an upgrading of our Sunday teaching sessions, for improvement and extension of our vacation church schools, and also for other teaching-learning situations through the year. It may take the next seventy-five years to reach these goals!

Implementing the necessary changes and motivating our people to bring this twofold challenge to fruition is now the responsibility of the Conference Board of Education, Local Church Commissions on Education, pastors, district superintendents, district directors, directors of Christian education, parents, and 20,000 officers and teachers. The members of your conference staff covet the concern of every person for more dedicated teachers and for more purposeful Christian living through the Educational Ministry of our church.

CARL H. KING
December 31, 1965

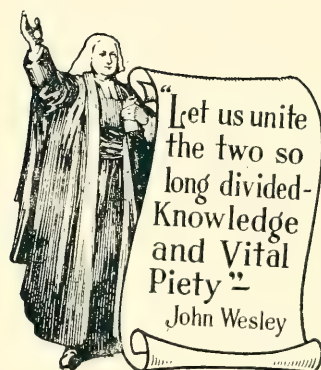


CARL H. KING
Executive Secretary, 1934

PAUL H. DUCKWALL
*Director of Youth and Young
Adults, 1958*

MISS LOUISE ROBINSON
Department of Children's Work, 1957

THOMAS S. LEE, JR.
*Junior High and Junior High
Camping, 1960*



“Let us unite
the two so
long divided-
Knowledge
and Vital
Piety”

John Wesley

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